1: Holmberg--46-47 (1941-42) 1950 Siriono-1-2
116, 773, 539

"Moon is now believed to live in the sky. The reason for his ascending to the heavens is revealed in the following folk tale, which also explains why the animals have the shapes and colors they now possess.

Yási (Moon) had a child. Yákwa (Jaguar) was delousing the child and killed him by biting him in the head. Then Yási came along and said, 'Who killed my child?' Yóíta (Fox) was standing by and said, 'I do not know.' Yákwa was hidden between two mats of motacú at this time. Then Yási went along and began to ask all of the other animals, 'Who killed my child?' All of them answered, 'We do not know.' Then he came to where Erúbat (Spider Monkey) and Téndi (Howler Monkey), and Seáci (Coati) were having héri héri (a drinking feast). Yási was very angry. Erúbat wanted to be red in color like Téndi, but Yási said, 'You will be black.' Yási was angry because all of the animals were drunk. Then he grabbed Téndi by the neck and pulled it into the shape it now has. Kwándu (Porcupine) was standing by, got angry with Yási and began to scratch him. Yási put spines in his back and fixed his feet so that he could not scratch. He also twisted the feet of Antanbúǰa and Antandíša (Anteaters) and picked up Konómbi (Tortoise) and threw him down again, saying,

> 'You will not walk fast.' All of the animals were very angry. That is why Erúbat and Téndi howl so loudly today and that is why Erúbat throws chonta fruits at one when one passes by. Yási was still very angry and decided to go up into the sky. He began to climb a huge tree up into the sky. Before going up he told Yákwa to follow him, but Yákwa did not know how to climb very well and when he got [47] part way up he fell down into the water below and was eaten up by Sénye (Palometas), who were enormous in those days.

The folk tale quoted above, of which there are a number of variants, was about the only one I ever heard the Siriono tell. Although Moon is credited with having started everything in their culture, stories to account for these things were never told. I could get no supporting myths, for instance, for the origin of the world, the origin of men, or the origin of fire, even though informants were agreed that Moon was responsible for them."